

655—20.23 (17A,272C) Continuances. Unless otherwise provided, requests for continuance shall be filed with the board.

20.23(1) A written request for a continuance shall:

- a.* Be made at the earliest possible time and no less than 7 days before the hearing except in cases of unanticipated emergencies;
- b.* State the specific reasons for the request; and
- c.* Be signed by the requesting party or the party's attorney.

20.23(2) No request for continuance shall be made or granted without notice to all parties except in an emergency where notice is not feasible. The presiding officer may allow an oral application for continuance at the contested case hearing only in the event of an unanticipated emergency.

20.23(3) The presiding officer or the executive director has the authority to grant or deny a request for a continuance in accordance with this subrule. The executive director or an administrative law judge may enter an order granting an uncontested request for a continuance. Upon consultation with the board chair, the executive director or an administrative law judge may deny an uncontested request for a continuance or may rule on a contested request for continuance.

20.23(4) In determining whether to grant a continuance, the presiding officer or the executive director may require documentation of any grounds for continuance and may consider:

- a.* Prior continuances;
- b.* The interests of all parties;
- c.* The public interest;
- d.* The likelihood of settlement;
- e.* The existence of an emergency;
- f.* Any objection;
- g.* Any applicable time requirements;
- h.* The existence of a conflict in the schedules of counsel, parties, or witnesses;
- i.* The timeliness of the request; and
- j.* Other relevant factors.